THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Proposal received for NRI and Tax-Free Bonds from Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited

2084. SMT. ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal received form the Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited for approval of issue of NRI Bonds and Tax Free Bonds pending with the Central Government; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken thereon and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. (SSNNL) had sought permission to issue tax-free bonds as well as bonds to NRIs on repartiable basis. According to current policy, issue of tax-free bonds is restricted to only those undertakings which are wholly or partly owned by Central Government. Hence, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited was advised that it could consider issuing taxable bonds to domestic and NRI investors subject to the guidelines of the Securities and Exchange Board of India in this regard.

Financial Institutions to buy shares in Cosmatic companies

2085. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the circumstances for financial institutions to buy shares in cosmetic companies, hotels, etc.;

(b) whether it is a fact that large capital is being blocked in such companies;

(c) whether Government will review the necessity of scarce capital being held up in non-priority sector companies; and

(d) whether any decision will be taken to review this policy of buying equity without any public purpose.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that financial institutions (FIs) such as IDBI and Industrial, Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) invest in equity of Industrial units as a part of their normal project financing operations. The magnitude of investment in equity of industrial units depends upon the means of finance of the project and the commercial assessment of the FIs.

IDBI has also reported that it has no shareholding in cosmetic manufacturing companies. The investment by IDBI in share capital of hotels works out to about 0.6% of the total shareholding of IDBI in companies. IFCI has reported that its investment in share capital of hotel and tourism related companies and detergent units was about 0.7% of the total assets of IFCI as on 31.3.1995.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Effect of Abolition of Target Values on Different Types of Yarn

2086. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the additional burden on domestic textile industry due to abolition of tariff values both on polyester yarn and texturised yarn;

(b) what will be the effect on prices of twisted and dyed yarn; and

(c) in what manner Government propose to meet the difficulties being faced by integrated producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a)

and (b) Consequent to the abolition of tariff values, polyester yarns including texturised yarn are now charged to basic excise duty on the basic of assessable value determined under section 4 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. Yarns of different denierages command different prices, and these prices vary from time to time. The incidence of excise duty thereon and of the additional burden, if any, will depend on to what extent their value under section 4 differs from the earlier tariff values. As their prices keep changing, it is not possible to confirm whether there will be any additional burden.

As regards twisted and dyed yarn, excise duty is payable by integrated units on their assessable value. The prices of twisted and dyed yarn depend on many factors. The central excise duty is only one of them. It is, therefore, not possible to quantify the effect of excise duty incidence on their prices.

(c) Representations from various associations regarding the difficulties faced by the integrated producers have been received. These are under examination.

Clearance for Power Projects

2087. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all clearances have been obtained for the Sindol, Hirakud B, Chiplima B and Talcher Power Projects;

(b) whether the project authorities have taken into consideration the grievances of the people; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) Detailed Project Reports for Sindol, Hirakud B and Chiplima B H.E. Projects have been received in the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for accord of techno-economic clearance. These projects are yet to be cleared by the Ministry of Environment and Forest. For the Talchar Thermal Power Project Stage-II clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forest and Coal linkage is yet to be obtained.

(b) and (c) The Central Electricity Authority has informed that in compliance of Section 29 of Electricity (Supply) Act, no objections have been received from public for Hirakud B and Chiplima B Hydro Electric Projects by the project-authorities. Compliance of Section 29 in case of Sindol H.E. Project is yet to be done. For the Talcher Power Project Stage-II, representations/ objections received concerning the list of identification of substantially affected families have been taken into consideration by the project-authority, namely, the National Thermal Power Corporation.

Clearance Required for setting up of Power Plant in Private Sector

2088. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each and every clearance required for setting up of a private sector power plant;

(b) what is the average time required for getting these clearances; and

(c) what steps are being taken to expedite the clearances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILA BEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) The various statutory and non-statutory clearances required for setting up a private power project are statement (*see* below).

(b) and (c) Since clearances depend on location and other project parameters, no time frame is normally specified. However, Ministry of Power accords all possible assistance to the Independent Power Producers in obtaining the necessary clearance.